Capacity to build nuclear weapon

†*35. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that 40 more countries in the world have developed capacity to build nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, facts in this regard; and

(c) the list of such countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government has seen reports to this effect. Director General, International Atomic Energy (IAEA) has recently said that by some estimates thirty-five to forty countries around the world operate nuclear power plants and nuclear research reactors; many of them have access to fuel fabrication and reprocessing technologies. This does not, however, translate automatically into a nuclear weapons capability. Moreover, with the exception of eight states, other states have undertaken legal obligations not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons.

(c) There is no definitive list of such countries.

Committee on information about farmers

†*36. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that Planning Commission had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Adarsh Mishra in March, 2006, to gather detailed information about the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Committee has found State Governments responsible for neglecting development of agriculture resulting in pitiable condition of farmers; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.